

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 04136 182154Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-07

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSF-02

NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-06 SS-15 SP-02

INT-05 PA-02 PRS-01 H-02 /120 W

----- 115282

R 182126Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1406

UNCLAS OTTAWA 4136

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
OCT 14 HW REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE UNCLAS OTTAWA 4136

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, CA

SUBJ: VANCOUVER SUN

REF: FORDNEY/BUCHANAN TELCON OCTOBER 13, 1976

1. PLEASE TYPE AND TRANSMIT BY HAND FOLLOWING LETTER
TO EDITOR OF VANCOUVER SUN SIGNED BEN F. FORDNEY,
COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, OTTAWA:

2. I WAS PLEASED TO NOTE IN YOUR LEAD EDITORIAL ON
OCTOBER 4 THAT THE SUN AGREES WITH MANY OF THE POINTS MADE
BY AMBASSADOR ENDERS IN A SPEECH ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PROBLEMS IN VANCOUVER SEPTEMBER 25.

3. HOWEVER, I TAKE EXCEPTION TO THE RATHER NEGATIVE VIEW
REGARDING US PERFORMANCE UNDER THE TERMS OF THE GREAT
LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT. THE EDITORIAL COMMENTED ON
SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THE AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH AND I WOULD
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 04136 182154Z

LIKE TO ADDRESS MYSELF TO THOSE POINTS.

4. FIRST, IT ASSERTED THAT THE U.S. HAD NOT FULFILLED THE SPIRIT OF THE AGREEMENT. I CANNOT AGREE WITH THAT EVALUATION. AS THE AMBASSADOR STATED, THE US "MOUNTED THE LARGEST PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM EVER CREATED BY ANY GOVERNMENT, ANY TIME, ANY PLACE IN THE WORLD" IN AN EFFORT TO FULFILL ITS PART OF THE GREAT LAKES AGREEMENT. CRITICISMS MAY BE INVITED AGAINST BOTH SIDES REGARDING SPECIFIC ITEMS WHICH CAUSE TROUBLE, BUT THAT HARDLY WARRANTS AN ACCUSATION SUCH AS THAT MADE IN YOUR EDITORIAL.

5. SECOND, THE VANCOUVER SUN STATES THAT ADDITIONAL MONEY WOULD AUTOMATICALLY HAVE SOLVED THE PROBLEM. I ARGUE THAT ABOUT AS MUCH MONEY WAS SPENT ON THE GREAT LAKES AS COULD POSSIBLY BE ABSORBED. THERE WAS A SLOW-UP IN FUNDING AT THE OUTSET AS THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT KNEW THERE WOULD BE WHILE OUR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT WAS DEBATED AND FINALLY PASSED BY CONGRESS. IT IS AN IMMENSELY COMPLEX ACT REQUIRING CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE EIGHT GREAT LAKES STATES AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY. EACH OF THESE STATES HAD TO STUDY THE ACT TO SEE WHAT ACTION WOULD BE NECESSARY AND HAD TO SEEK FUNDS FROM ITS LEGISLATURE. THEN, ONCE ALL OF THE FINANCING HAD BEEN ARRANGED, THERE WERE OCCASIONS WHEN MONEY LAY IDLE WHILE AWAITING COMPLETION OF THE NECESSARY PROCEDURES TO USE IT. THE CITIES INVOLVED HAD TO RAISE LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES, TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON EXPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS, TO ISSUE CONTRACTS AND TO PROVIDE NECESSARY PERMITS.

6. ADDITIONALLY, THERE IS SERIOUS QUESTION WHETHER PRESENT TECHNOLOGY IS EQUAL TO THE MONEY BEING SPENT. MANY TECHNICAL EXPERTS WONDER WHETHER WE ARE PURCHASING EQUIPMENT -- THE MOST MODERN AVAILABLE -- WHICH IS NOT UP TO THE CHALLENGE. OUR PROBLEM IS THAT TECHNOLOGY IS NOT KEEPING UP WITH THE TASK DESPITE THE ENORMOUS RESEARCH BEING CARRIED ON. NEW AND UNEXPECTED PROBLEMS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 04136 182154Z

KEEP APPEARING IN BOTH COUNTRIES WHICH CALL FOR NEW APPROACHES.

7. THIRDLY, IT IS TRUE THAT PRESIDENT NIXON'S IMPOUNDMENT OF FUNDS CREATED CONSTERNATION, AS DID SUBSEQUENT CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS TO DIVERT FUNDS TO OTHER AREAS OF THE US WHICH ALSO FACE SEVERE POLLUTION PROBLEMS. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT EITHER ACTION

SERIOUSLY HELD UP ANY SPECIFIC CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY TO THE POINT WHERE THE US COULD BE ACCUSED OF NOT LIVING UP TO THE SPIRIT OF THE AGREEMENT. UNDOUBTEDLY, HAD THE IMPOUNDMENT HELD, OR HAD CONGRESS SUCCEEDED IN DIVERTING FUNDS, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A DIFFERENT MATTER, BUT THE POINT IS THAT THE GREAT LAKES AGREEMENT PREVAILED.

8. FINALLY, THE SUN IMPLIES THAT THE PHOSPHATE PROBLEM IN THE GREAT LAKES IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO OUR RELUCTANCE TO BAN PHOSPHATE DETERGENTS. ACTUALLY, BANNING PHOSPHATES FROM DETERGENTS HAS NOT PROVEN TO BE THE CUREALL FOR PHOSPHATE POLLUTION IN THE GREAT LAKES AREA, AS THE AMBASSADOR STATES IN HIS SPEECH. THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA IS ALSO REVIEWING ITS ACTION IN THIS REGARD SINCE IT IS NOT CONVINCED THAT ITS MEASURES WERE ADEQUATE. BESIDES, THE ADVICE AT THAT TIME TO BAN PHOSPHATES FROM DETERGENTS WAS NOT BASED ON ANY DESIRE TO IGNORE THE SPIRIT OF THE AGREEMENT BUT RATHER WAS BASED ON PROFOUND MEDICAL CONCERN REGARDING THE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE EFFECT PHOSPHATE SUBSTITUTES MIGHT HAVE ON HUMAN HEALTH.

9. WE, THEREFORE, CONTINUE TO THINK THAT THE GREAT LAKES AGREEMENT IS A "CLASSIC EXAMPLE" OF A JOINT AGREEMENT WHICH BENEFITS BOTH OF OUR ENVIRONMENTS. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT US PERFORMANCE UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT IS CURRENTLY CAUSING "FRICTION" BETWEEN US AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO EVEN THOUGH PROBLEMS ON BOTH SIDES CONTINUE TO EXIST. WE THINK THE AGREEMENT IS A LANDMARK WHICH SHOULD BE EMULATED, WHICH CERTAINLY HAS ITS ROUGH SPOTS SINCE IT IS A NEW ENDEAVOR, BUT WHICH HAS PLAYED A VALUABLE ROLE IN TRYING TO CLEAN UP THE GREAT LAKES. SINCERELY YOURS, BEN F. FORDNEY, COUNSELOR
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 OTTAWA 04136 182154Z

OF EMBASSY FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS, OTTAWA, CANADA.
ENDERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OTTAWA04136
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760391-0256
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761041/aaaabjjo.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUN 2004 by DuboseBM>; APPROVED <16 DEC 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VANCOUVER SUN
TAGS: OGEN, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006